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30 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Berlin Communists, under Soviet direction, have been expected to create a "revolutionary situation" if popular unrest in the city develops sufficiently during the present critical situation. Their objective presumably would be to furnish the Soviet military forces and police with an excuse (1) to occupy the western sectors of the city on the pretext that the western powers were unable to maintain order; and (2) to insist on confining representatives of the western powers to limited areas for "their own safety" until they could be removed from the city under Soviet "safe conduct." The Communists are now reported to have laid plans for the organization of "action squads" headed by Communist shop foremen and local district leaders. If the food situation in the western sectors becomes desperate, operation of public utilities is to be suspended by strikes, while city-wide demonstrations in the name of "unity" and against the currency situation are to be sponsored by the Communist squads, who would then incite the demonstrators to occupy the city government buildings by force and invite violence on the part of western police or troops. This information could have been "manufactured" by the German anti-Communists for propaganda purposes (as was "Protocol M") or by the Communists as a part of the current Berlin war-of-nerves. The information, however, apparently comes through reliable channels and is in general consistent with current estimates of Communist intentions.

Current Soviet tactics in Berlin, however, appear to be calculated in large part to force the western powers into local negotiations on the Berlin situation, in the expectation that such negotiations could be broadened to include Soviet demands on overall problems. The Communist "action" program probably has been formulated, as reported, but presumably would be put into effect only on a signal from Soviet headquarters and could be discarded at any time. Minor disturbances, within the framework of the program, may be authorized as an additional threat to the western position in Berlin. The USSR, however, will probably not set in motion the full program until the western powers have refused to negotiate on Soviet terms and then only if the logistic position of the western powers in Berlin has further deteriorated.

1 addit. cc: to Dir. 30/6.

Carried by
Mr. H. H. H. 30/6
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(If the reported program is put into effect, the following considerations are pertinent:

(1) In the event of public disturbances, the loyalty of the German police to the west is in doubt, despite the fact that the western powers have long sought to eliminate disloyal elements from the police. If the police are either unable or unwilling to enforce order, sole responsibility for whatever violent repressive actions are necessary against the Berlin population would fall on the western troops. The population of the western sectors of Berlin has been clearly anti-Communist, even to the point of fecklessness, but the people are unarmed and if their determination were weakened by hunger and continued unemployment and their allegiance damaged by western military repressive action, the people probably could not be counted upon to offer serious resistance to Communist action squads.

(2) The US police radio recently has been systematically and effectively jammed. This action may have been taken in response to the effective part which the radio played in Marshal Scholovsky's recent arrest for speeding. The jamming may be continued in order to assist the Communist "action" program, because the efficiency of police forces and troops of the eastern powers would be substantially impaired by their inability to use the US police radio.)

R. E. HILLENHUTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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